

**To:** McQuiddy, David[Mcquiddy.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Assunto, Carmen  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 4:23:10 PM  
[Special Digest 081015.pdf](#)

**1 — Access to Animas River closed after Gold King Mine spills toxic metals into water, Farmington (NM) Daily Times, 8/7/2015**

[http://www.daily-times.com/four\\_corners-news/ci\\_28601678/officials-declare-state-emergency-close-animas-river-san](http://www.daily-times.com/four_corners-news/ci_28601678/officials-declare-state-emergency-close-animas-river-san)

San Juan County Executive Officer Kim Carpenter declared a state of emergency Friday night and closed access to the Animas River throughout the county.

**2 — Navajo Nation, San Juan County officials continue to handle toxic waste plume, Farmington (NM) Daily Times, 8/9/2015**

[http://www.daily-times.com/four\\_corners-news/ci\\_28613676/navajo-nation-san-juan-county-officials-continue-handle](http://www.daily-times.com/four_corners-news/ci_28613676/navajo-nation-san-juan-county-officials-continue-handle)

Officials with the Navajo Nation, San Juan County and the state of New Mexico are trying to keep residents informed about the Animas River after an estimated 3 million gallons of contaminated water was released from the Gold King Mine north of Silverton, Colo.

**3 – Navajos plan to sue EPA over river cleanup, Albuquerque Journal, 8/10/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/625960>

The president of the Navajo Nation said Sunday that he intends to sue for “every dollar it spends cleaning up this mess” after Environmental Protection Agency employees accidentally released at least 3 million gallons of wastewater, including potentially harmful metals, into a river that breached the sovereign nation’s borders this weekend.

**4 — EPA spill: 'The magnitude of it, you can't even describe it', CNN, 8/9/2015**

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/09/us/colorado-epa-mine-river-spill/>

The city of Durango and La Plata County, Colorado, have declared a state of emergency after a federal cleanup crew accidentally released mine waste into the water.

## **5 — Wastewater from Colorado mine reaches New Mexico, USA Today, 8/10/2015**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/08/09/wastewater-colorado-mine-reaches-new-mexico/31368401/>

Mustard-colored wastewater laced with heavy metals continues to drain into a river from an abandoned mine in southwestern Colorado at a rate of about 550 gallons per minute, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, which caused the spill.

## **6 — Toxic sludge in contaminated river reaches New Mexico, communities have 90-day water supply, RT, 8/10/2015**

<http://www.rt.com/usa/311970-river-toxic-spill-colorado/>

Toxic waste, including arsenic and lead, which seeped into a river in southwest Colorado, has now crossed the state border into New Mexico. More than 550 gallons per minute are entering the water flow system according to the Environmental Protection Agency, which caused the spill.

## **7 – New Mexico officials offer to test well water in Animas River spill's wake, Denver Post, 8/10/2015**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28614725/new-mexico-officials-offer-test-well-water-animas](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28614725/new-mexico-officials-offer-test-well-water-animas)

New Mexico environmental officials are offering to test private domestic wells in the wake of a three-million gallon spill last week in southwest Colorado of mine wastewater into the Animas River.

## **8 — Anger Rises as E.P.A. Increases Estimate of Toxic Water Spill at Colorado Mine, The New York Times, 8/10/2015**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/11/us/durango-colorado-mine-spill-environmental-protection-agency.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/11/us/durango-colorado-mine-spill-environmental-protection-agency.html?_r=0)

Anger over a spill of toxic water from a mine that turned this community's river into a yellow-orange ribbon rose on Sunday when the Environmental Protection Agency announced that the spill was three times larger than previously stated — and that the agency was still unsure if the

polluted water posed a health threat to humans or animals.

**9 — EPA Says It Released 3 Million Gallons Of Contaminated Water Into River, NPR, 8/10/2015**

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/08/10/431223703/epa-says-it-released-3-million-gallons-of-contaminated-water-into-river>

In an event that has led to health warnings and turned a river orange, the Environmental Protection Agency says one of its safety teams accidentally released contaminated water from a mine into the Animas River in southwest Colorado.

**10 — The EPA Caused A Huge Toxic Spill Now Streaming Toward Lake Powell, Forbes, 8/9/2015**

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ericmack/2015/08/09/the-epa-caused-a-huge-toxic-spill-now-streaming-toward-lake-powell/>

The waters of the Animas River flowed a bright carrot orange past the Riverside Nature Center in Farmington Saturday morning where an electronic sign in the parking lot flashed the unusual news: “RIVER CLOSED.” An equally steady stream of curious citizens parked just beyond the sign to make the quick walk to the riverbank and snap a picture of the fouled river with their phones.

**11 — Officials pledge to ‘make the EPA pay’ for Animas River spill, NM Politics, 8/9/2015**

<http://www.nmpolitics.net/index/2015/08/officials-pledge-to-make-the-epa-pay-for-animas-river-spill/>

Government officials from New Mexico and the Navajo Nation were among those working through the weekend to try to understand and respond to the Environmental Protection Agency’s inadvertent triggering of the spill of an estimated 3 million gallons of toxic waste into the Animas River last week.

**12 — Residents on edge as toxic CO spill larger than first reported, CBS, 8/10/2015**

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/colorado-mine-waste-spill-environmental-protection-agency/>

The Environmental Protection Agency says the mine waste spill into Colorado waters is much larger than originally estimated. But an EPA official said Sunday that she doesn't believe wildlife will suffer significant health impacts from the wastewater from an abandoned mine in southwestern Colorado.

**13 — What the EPA was doing when it sent yellow sludge spilling into a Colorado creek, Washington Post, 8/10/2015**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/08/10/what-the-epa-was-doing-when-it-sent-yellow-sludge-spilling-into-a-colorado-creek/>

The whole point of the project was to make Colorado's water safer. Instead, while working to clean a mine in the San Juan mountains last Wednesday, workers with the Environmental Protection Agency unintentionally made the problem worse.

**14 — Colorado river spill underscores threat of old hard-rock mines, Los Angeles Times, 8/10/2015**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-river-mine-spill-20150810-story.html#page=1>

Keena Kimmel's bookshop occupies a cozy curve along the Animas River, a place of wild sunflowers and lilacs where fisherman try their luck and kayakers glide under iron bridges. But this weekend the river was empty and Kimmel's heart broken.

**15 — Experts estimate 55,000 toxic mine sites in West, Denver Post, 8/10/2015**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28612996/experts-estimate-55-000-sites-west](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28612996/experts-estimate-55-000-sites-west)

Beneath the western United States lie thousands of old mining tunnels filled with the same toxic stew that spilled into a Colorado river last week, turning it into a nauseating yellow concoction and stoking alarm about contamination of drinking water.

Sincerely,

Carmen Assunto

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 6

Houston Laboratory

OFFICE: 281-983-2196

EPA CELL: 469-600-3158